

# Refugees welcome: Exploring mediated discourses of hospitality and refugee representation in New Zealand



Natalie Slade n.slade@massey.ac.nz



#### Overview

- Introduction
- Research outline
- Refugee representation and the media
- New Zealand media analysis
- Conclusion
- References





#### Introduction

- World facing biggest refugee crisis since WWII
  (UNHCR, 2016)
- Myth and misinformation about refugees and asylum seekers in the media (Gale, 2004; UNHCR, 2016)
- Politics of fear
   (Devetak, 2004; Gale, 2004; Pugh, 2004)





#### Introduction

"Once in a while, an image breaks through the noisy, cluttered global culture and hits people in the heart and not the head" (Wall Street Journal, 11 September, 2015)





#### Introduction



## #RaiseTheQuota

New Zealand, it's time to raise our refugee quota.



#### Research Outline

- Critical discourse analysis NZ Herald and Stuff, September 2015 (Fairclough, 1995; van Dijk, 2008)
- How are refugees represented in the NZ mainstream media?
- Relationship between these representations and imaginings of hospitality and welcome



### Refugee Representation

- Media representations sit within complex discourses of security and hospitality (Bleiker, Campbell, & Hutchison, 2014)
- Stereotypical notion of 'refugeeness' (Malkki, 1996)





## Refugee Representation





## Refugee Representation

Discourses of compassion, empathy and humanity







## Refugees Welcome

#### Discourses of hospitality and welcome





### Role of the media

- Media shapes public perceptions about refugees (Lynn & Lea, 2003; O'Neill, 2010; Jacobs, 2011)
- Words + images = particular reality or truth (Wright, 2002; Bleiker et al, 2014)
- Can influence how refugees are welcomed







- Strong ethical and moral argument in media on raising refugee quota
  - » Shaming the government
  - » NZs long humanitarian tradition
  - » Refugees as victims
  - » Moral duty to help





- Ethics of hospitality duty to assist those in need (Gibney, 2004)
  - » Refugee as hurt and vulnerable stranger
  - "Colonialism of compassion" (Hyndman, 2000, p. xxii)







- Imaginings of nationhood (Dauvergne, 2005; Bauder, 2015)
  - » 'Narcistic samaritanism' (Kapoor, 2005)
  - » Determines humanitarian policies





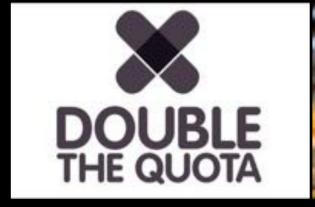
- Conditional hospitality states control entry (Derrida, 2001)
- Caring at a distance (Hyndman, 2000)





### **Concluding Remarks**

- Consequences of stereotypical representations of refugees
- Power relations involved in acts of hospitality
- Value and limitations of these discourses in resettling refugees







## Questions? Comments?





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